

Petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1759) of Martin T. Reilly and John P. Burke for legislation relative to instructional programs on the nature and effects of alcohol and alcoholism and programs relative to alcohol-related problems in schools. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Six.

AN ACT CONCERNING INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS ON THE NATURE AND EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL AND ALCOHOLISM AND PROGRAMS RELATIVE TO ALCOHOL-RELATED PROBLEMS IN SCHOOLS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Section 1 of Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as most recently
2 amended by Chapter 916 of the Acts of 1977, is hereby further
3 amended by adding the following at the end of said section 1:

4 The nature of alcoholic drinks and narcotics and their effects
5 upon the human system shall be taught in all schools supported
6 wholly or in part by public moneys in such manner as may be
7 adapted to the age and understanding of the pupils and shall be
8 emphasized in appropriate places of the curriculum sufficiently for
9 a full and adequate treatment of the subject. The Commissioner of
10 the Department of Education shall with the approval of the State
11 Board of Education and in consultation with the Division of
12 Alcoholism of the Department of Public Health, prepare and
13 update as necessary curriculum guidelines to assist school commit-
14 tees in fulfilling this requirement. Each school committee shall
15 make provisions in its annual educational program to fulfill this
16 requirement and with respect to the requirement concerning the
17 teaching of the nature of alcoholic drinks and their effects upon the
18 human system, each committee shall consult with a local organiza-
19 tion involved with the prevention, detection, and treatment of
20 alcoholism approved by the Division of Alcoholism. Each school
21 committee shall adopt and implement, in accordance with rules
22 and regulations promulgated by the State board, policies and

23 procedures for the evaluation and treatment of pupils involved in
24 incidents of possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages on
25 school property or at school functions, or who show significant
26 symptoms of intoxication on school property or at school func-
27 tions. In adopting and implementing these policies and procedures,
28 the board shall consult and work closely with a local organization
29 involved with the prevention, detection and treatment of alcohol-
30 ism approved by the Division of Alcoholism.

31 The Commissioner of the Department of Education shall make
32 an in-depth study of the incidence of consumption of alcoholic
33 beverages by school pupils and the degree to which consumption of
34 alcoholic beverages by school pupils is causing educational, disci-
35 plinary or other problems for school districts, and of the effective-
36 ness of current laws and regulations relative to the teaching of the
37 nature and effects of alcoholic beverages and the training of
38 teachers with respect to the nature and effects of alcoholic bever-
39 ages. Based upon the study and after consultation with the Com-
40 missioner, the State board shall establish a comprehensive plan
41 designed to insure that effective instructional programs on the
42 nature of alcoholic beverages and their effect upon the human
43 body, and on the physiological, psychological, and sociological
44 effects of alcoholism, and effective programs for handling pupils
45 who are involved in incidents of possession or consumption of
46 alcoholic beverages, or who show significant symptoms of intoxi-
47 cation or of alcoholism, in school property or at school functions,
48 are provided in the public schools. The plan shall provide for, but is
49 not limited to:

- 50 a. Goals, objectives and standards for alcohol education;
- 51 b. Identification of appropriate places in the curriculum and
52 appropriate grade levels for effective alcohol education;
- 53 c. Preparation and updating of curriculum guidelines;
- 54 d. General qualifications for all teachers in public schools to
55 insure that all teachers are adequately trained in and aware of the
56 nature and effects of alcoholic beverages and alcoholism so that
57 they may identify alcohol-related problems in pupils and assist in
58 resolving alcohol-related problems in the schools or in providing
59 effective alcohol education;
- 60 e. Specific qualifications for teachers providing instruction in

61 the nature and effects of alcohol and alcoholism;

62 f. Appropriate in-service training programs for teachers to pro-
63 vide them with the opportunity to meet the general or specific
64 qualification requirements under the plan within a reasonable
65 period of time after it takes effect, and to maintain their proficiency
66 and update their knowledge relative to alcohol education as
67 necessary;

68 g. Guidelines for policies and procedures of boards of education
69 for handling pupils involved in alcohol-related incidents or with
70 alcohol-related problems;

71 h. A uniform system for the collection of data on incidents
72 involving possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages, and on
73 pupils with alcohol-related problems, on school property or at
74 school functions.

75 In making the study and preparing and implementing the plan,
76 the Commissioner and the State board shall consult the work
77 closely with the Division of Alcoholism. The study and plan shall
78 be completed within 3 years after the effective date of this act, and
79 shall be submitted to the Governor and the Legislature.

